

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-12 ADP-00 PM-09 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-12 PRS-01

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI PRIORITY

USINT CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

USINT ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: PINS, LE, US

SUBJ: CHARGES OF U. S. COMPLICITY OVER ARAB RADIO

REF: STATE 68430

HONG KONG FOR ASST. SECRETARY SISCO

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1. FOLLOWING IS ROUND- UP OF ARAB RADIO BROADCASTS RE ALLEGED U. S. INVOLVEMENT IN ISRAELI RAIDS ON BEIRUT AS OF MIDNIGHT APRIL 15.

2. VOICE OF PALESTINE (VOP) FROM CAIRO, BAGHDAD AND SYRIA COMMENTARIES ON BEIRUT RAID AND U. S. ROLE IN IT HAVE INCREASED IN VOLUME AND IN VIOLENCE FROM OVER WEEKEND. OFFICIAL SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN RADIOS ALSO CONTINUE TO PLAY CHARGES OF U. S. INVOLVEMENT. MOROCCAN AND TUNISIAN RADIOS CONTINUE TO AVOID SUBJECT ENTIRELY.

3. FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS:

A. BAGHDAD VOP (14 APRIL 2037 GMT): " MASSES OF THE ARAB NATION, CITIZENS AND REVOLUTIONARIES: THE U. S. STATE DEPARTMENT IS STILL WAGING A RABID CA COUNTRIES COMMENTED FURTHER ON IDEA (REPORTED GENEVA 1689) THAT US PROPOSAL WAS DISCRIMINATORY AND NOT IN ACCORD WITH US COMMITMENTS IN RES. 21 (II) AND AGREED CONCLUSIONS OF LAST MEETING. US INSTANCE ON ELIMINATION OF REVERSE PREFERENCES DESCRIBED BY SENEGAL SPEAKING FOR YAOUNDE GROUP AS PLACING CONDITION NOT ENVISIONED IN GSP ON LDC' S AND IMPROPERLY BURDENING THEM. IN PLENARY STATEMENTS, AND IN MORE DETAIL PRIVATELY, AFRICAN DELEGATES POINTED OUT LOW LEVELS OF TRADE WITH US AND THEIR DEPENDENCY ON EC AND SUGGESTED THAT DEVELOPING TRADE WAS FIRST STEP FOR US RATHER THAN TAKING A STAND AGAINST REVERSE PREFERENCES ON PRINCIPLE. CHILE TOOK SEVERAL ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO ATTACK GSP PROPOSAL. PERU' S DELEGATE, IN AN EXTENDED AND MORE BALANCED STATEMENT THAN THOSE OF MEXICO, ARGENTINA AND BRAZIL, CRITICIZED POTENTIAL FOR ARBITRARINESS IN SUSPENSION OF PREFERENCES UNDER US PROPOSAL AND DISCRIMINATORY CRITERIA FOR BENEFICIARY SELECTION. HOWEVER, HE WELCOMED US PROPOSAL AS ONE OF THE MOST POSITIVE AND ADVANCED THAT HAD BEEN MADE.

2. DISCUSSION ON AGENDA ITEM 6 REGARDING LEAST DEVELOPED WAS DOMINATED BY DELEGATE FROM ETHIOPIA WHO COMPLAINED EVERYONE WAS SYMPATHETIC BUT NOTHING DONE TO DATE. SEVERAL MEMBERS OF GROUP B AND OF THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE USSR, SPOKE ON WHAT THEY HAD DONE REGARDING LEAST DEVELOPED. HOWEVER, ETHIOPIA' S LONG FORMAL STATEMENT TOOK EVERYONE TO TASK IN DETAIL -- JAPAN, US, EC, SOCIALIST COUNTRIES AND THE SECRETARIAT FOR ITS POINT OF VIEW AND LACK OF POSITIVE RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE DOCUMENTATION IT HAD PREPARED. THE USSR FELT SUFFICIENTLY STUNG THAT LATER IN PLENARY IT REPLIED TO ETHIOPIA DESCRIBING ITS EFFORTS TO STIMULATE TRADE WITH THE LEAST DEVELOPED AND DETAILING ITS GROWING TRADE WITH ETHIOPIA. IT ENDED BY STATING THAT IF ITS TRADE WITH LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAD NOT REACHED DESIRED LEVELS, IT WAS NOT THE FAULT OF USSR POLICIES.

3. ON AGENDA ITEM 7 REGARDING EFFECTS OF GSP ON LDCS SHARING THEIR SPECIAL TARIFF ADVANTAGES, SENEGAL REPRESENTING YAOUNDE GROUP WAS ONLY SPEAKER, BUT SUBJECT HAD ALREADY BEEN COVERED BY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFRICAN COUNTRIES IN DISCUSSIONS NOTED ABOVE ON REVERSE PREFERENCES. SENEGAL STRESSED THAT 18 AFRICAN COUNTRIES WERE NOT BENEFITTING FROM GSP BUT HAD LOST GROUND AND NEEDED ACCESS TO US AND CANADIAN SCHEMES, IN THE ABSENCE OF WHICH IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO EVALUATE THE TOTAL IMPACT OF GSP.

4. UNDER ITEM 9, OTHER QUESTIONS, DISCUSSION CONCENTRATED ON EROSION OF GSP BENEFITS DUE TO EC ENLARGEMENT AND EC FREE TRADE AREA WITH NON- ACCEDING EFTA MEMBERS, POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF THE MTN, AND EXCHANGE RATE CHANGES. EROSION FROM THE MTN WAS A PRINCIPAL ISSUE FOR THE LATIN AMERICANS. COMMONWEALTH ASIAN COUNTRIES SEEMED SERIOUSLY CONCERNED ABOUT NEGATIVE EFFECTS ON THEIR ACCESS TO UK MARKET OF EC ENLARGEMENT AND FTA. ALL GROUPS DEMANDED COMPENSATION FOR EROSION, BUT ASIANS MOST INTERESTED IN OBTAINING SPECIFIC AND PRACTICAL TRADE CONCESSIONS. LATIN AMERICAN GROUP, IN ITS STATEMENT ON RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY COMMITTEE, CALLED ON SG TO CONVENE A MEETING OF COMMITTEE BEFORE DECEMBER 31, 1973 TO CONSIDER PROBLEMS OF EROSION AND COMPENSATION. IN HIS CLOSING REMARKS TO COMMITTEE SG STRESSED THAT PROBLEMS OF GSP CANNOT BE SEPARATED FROM EFFECTS OF MTN, EC ENLARGEMENT ETC. HE DID NOT COMMENT UPON LA REQUEST.

5. US DEL ASSOCIATED ITSELF WITH CANADA IN STATEMENT POINTING OUT IT WAS NOT INTENTION OF THEIR COUNTRIES' SCHEMES TO COMPENSATE FOR POTENTIAL LOSSES IN MARKETS OF WESTERN EUROPE
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CAIRO
HONG KONG
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RABAT

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